

[6 December, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) whether his Ministry has also discussed this issue with TRAI;

(c) the details of the proposals from the private players pending before his Ministry for DTH projects;

(d) whether it is a fact that Prasar Bharati has started its own DTH service in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Of the four applications received so far, M/s. ASC Enterprises Ltd. was granted licence for operation of DTH broadcasting service on 16th September, 2003. The other three applications from M/s. Space TV Ltd., a joint venture with the Tata Sons, Essel Shyam Communications Ltd. and Noida Software Technology Park Ltd. are under process.

(d) and (e) The Ku band transmission project of Doordarshan, envisages distribution of 30 free-to-air channels, *i.e.* 17 Doordarshan channels and 13 channels of private broadcasters. As of now 12 private channels are available for viewing through the Ku band receiver system. The number of channels is likely to go upto 40 soon. Doordarshan would not be charging any subscription fee from the viewers.

#### **Reconstitution of Press Council of India**

384. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to reconstitute the Press Council of India and the Central Press Accreditation Committee and also amending the Working Journalist Act to include the electronic media; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The Press Council of India and the Central Press Accreditation Committee have been reconstituted with effect from 12th October, 2004 and 21st September, 2004, respectively. Regarding amendment to the Working Journalist Act, the M/o Labour and Employment has intimated that there is no such proposal under consideration.